

23 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Robert Smart, House Armed
Services Committee Staff, Regarding NIEs

1. While talking with Bob Smart on other matters, he brought up the question of the NIE process. He discussed it in terms of majority and minority positions and I attempted to explain to him the Director's concept of his sole responsibility for preparation of Estimates, utilizing the resources of the entire intelligence community and permitting them to dissent from his position. Mr. Smart raised the question of reviewing some of the Estimates and I said that this possibly would raise a question. In discussing the matter further, Mr. Smart requested that he be provided with a tabulation for 1958 of the total number of NIEs with the number of dissents or footnotes and who dissented. I advised that I saw no reason why this could not be prepared.

2. Mr. Smart also commented in confidence that he had been making some charts on his own within the policy making hierarchy as well as in the intelligence hierarchy. He made reference to the number of military men in these positions and made further reference to the number of Air Force among the military men. His speculation was what influence these numbers had on the policy decisions and the Intelligence Estimates.

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Attached is a note of my conversation with Robert Smart. I have requested Mr. Sheldon to begin preparation of the tabulation of NIEs mentioned in paragraph 1.

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

24 March 1959

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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